**Beefing up Security at IAF bases**

1697. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a militant attack on the air force base at Awantipora in Jammu and Kashmir which was foiled by the alert guards;

(b) whether IAF bases house costly aircrafts and equipments and require special new technology devises to ensure their security; and

(c) if so, what special steps have been taken by Government to beef up their safety?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A number of special equipment are already available at a number of Air Force bases. Steps to further improve/augment the security cover have been initiated.

**Establishment of Military Cantonment in Averi, H.P.**

† 1698. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land acquired for the establishment of a Military Cantonment at Averi in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of the progress made in the direction of establishing the same after the completion of the acquisition work; and

(c) the reasons for the slow progress?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) 1259 Bighas and 16 Biswas of land has been acquired in Village Averi, District Kullu for the purpose of locating Army Units. The State Government is in the process of shifting out the 33 families who are still residing on the acquired land. Further action, in this regard, will be taken, once the families are shifted.

**Suggestions made by CH National Committee on Defence**

1699. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

† Origtnal notice of the question was received in Hindi.